

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 05872 300721Z

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3347

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5872

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, US PFOR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH BAGBENI ON PCVS, AMERICAN COMMUNITY

NERVOUSNESS, TRAVEL OF USG GRANTEE

1. DEFPFONAFF DIRECTOR GENERAL BAGBENI CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE JUNE 27 ON WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE CONSULAR QUESTION - AUTHENTIFICATION OF FONMIN BULA'S SIGNATURE ON BACK OF SIZEABLE CHECK TO BE DEPOSITED TO GOZ ACCOUNT IN US. I TOOK OCCASION TO RASIE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN ZAIRE. I SAID SOME AMERICANS WERE STILL NERVOUS AS RESULT OF ELIMA EDITORIAL AND A NUMBER WERE SENDING THEIR FAMILIES HOME AHEAD OF TIME. I SAID US EMBASSY WAS TAKING LINE THAT GOZ CONTINUED TO WELCOME PRESENCE OF AMERICANS HERE AND WOULD PROTECT THEIR PERSONS AND PROPERTY. BAGBENI DID NOT COMMENT. I SAID THAT, IN FACT, EMBASSY HAD JUST RECOMMENDED TO WASHINGTON THAT PEACE CORPS CONTINGENT OF ABOUT 100 SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN KINSHASA JULY 4 EN ROUTE TO BUKAVU, BE AUTHORIZED TO COME AHEAD. BAGBENI RECALLED THAT VISA APPLICATIONS HAD COME THROUGH DEPTFONAFF RECENTLY AND ASKED WHAT PCVS DID IN ZAIRE. I EXPLAINED, MENTIONING FOMEKO IN PARTICULAR. BAGBENI SAID HE WOULD REMIND FONMIN BULA OF THIS ARRIVAL. TO FORESTALL ANY BULA MONKEY WRENCHING I TOLD BAGBENI THAT AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN EMBASSY'S DECISION TO RECOMMEND THAT PCVS COME HAD BEEN DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 05872 300721Z

AMBASSADOR VANCE AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU ON JUNE 25 IN

WHICH MOBUTU GAVE HIS SPECIFIC APPROVAL. BAGBENI
APPEARED IMPRESSED.

3. TRAVEL OF USG GRANTEES. I MENTIONED CASE OF FOUR
TEFL GRANTEES OF GROUP OF SIX SCHEDULED TO LEAVE
KINSHAS FOR 6 WEEKS TOUR OF US WHOSE PASSPORTS HAD
BEEN TAKEN UP BY DEPTFONAFF FEW DAY BEFORE WHEN THEY
APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO TRAVEL. I SAID THAT THESE
GRANTEES WERE SCHEDULED TO DEPART JUNE 28 AND THAT
THEY, TOO, HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN
AMBASSADOR VANCE AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU. I SAID IT
WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT MOBUTU HAD DECIDED TO LIFT
BAN HE HAD EARLIER IMPOSED ON USG GRANTEE TRAVEL TO
US. BAGBENI SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT. USIS THIS
ORNING, JUNE 28, REPORTS THAT PASSPORTS HAVE NOW
BEEN DELIVERED TO THE FOUR GRANTEES AND ALL SIX SHOULD
BE ABLE TO DEPART AS PLANNED.

ANDREW

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